

**30– 08 – 2023**

**News:** ‘Reroute rail track through gibbon sanctuary’

- Primatologists have suggested rerouting a 1.65 km long railway track that has divided an eastern Assam sanctuary dedicated to the western hoolock gibbon (Hoolock hoolock) into two unequal parts.

## **Hoolock Gibbon**

- The tailless Hoolock Gibbon is the **only ape found in India.**
- They are the fastest and smallest among all apes.
- The **primate is native to eastern Bangladesh, Northeast India and Southwest China.**
- The **estimated population of hoolock gibbons is 12,000.**
- The Hoolock Gibbon is **categorised into two types: Western hoolock gibbon and Eastern hoolock gibbon.**

### **Western hoolock gibbon**

- Western hoolock gibbon inhabits **in all the states of the north-east, restricted between the south of the Brahmaputra River and east of the Dibang river. And outside India, it is found in eastern Bangladesh and north-west Myanmar.**

- It is listed as Endangered under the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List.

### **Eastern hoolock gibbon**

- Eastern hoolock gibbon inhabits specific pockets of Arunachal Pradesh and Assam in India, and in southern China and north-east Myanmar outside India.
- It is listed as Vulnerable under the IUCN Red list.
- In India, both the species are listed on Schedule 1 of the Indian (Wildlife) Protection Act 1972.
- The hoolock gibbon faces threat primarily from the felling of trees for infrastructure projects.